

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging a ~~required~~ number of light-emitting diodes (LEDs) ~~LEDs~~, comprising ~~the steps of~~:  
  
storing characteristic values of each of said LEDs measured in a characteristic measurement;  
  
temporarily keeping said LEDs after storing said characteristic values; and  
  
rearranging said LEDs to make said characteristic values of ~~each~~ adjacent LEDs substantially equal.
2. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein ~~each~~ of said adjacent LEDs are arranged so that the characteristic value of one LED is not larger than that of another LED.
3. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein a predetermined number of the LEDs are rearranged to make said characteristic values of ~~each~~ adjacent LEDs substantially equal, after said LEDs are measured and temporarily kept.
4. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein said characteristic value ~~is~~ comprises a light intensity of said LEDs.
5. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging light-emitting elements, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

storing characteristic values of ~~each~~ of said light-emitting elements measured in a characteristic measurement;

temporarily keeping said light-emitting elements after storing said characteristic values; and

rearranging said light-emitting elements to make said characteristic values of ~~each~~ adjacent light-emitting elements substantially equal.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging light-emitting elements according to Claim 5, wherein ~~each~~ of said adjacent light-emitting elements are arranged so that the characteristic value of one light-emitting element is not larger than that of another light-emitting element.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging light-emitting elements according to Claim 5, wherein a predetermined number of the light-emitting elements are rearranged to make said characteristic values of ~~each~~ adjacent light-emitting elements substantially equal, after said light-emitting elements are measured and temporarily kept.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of arranging light-emitting elements according to Claim 5, wherein said characteristic value is comprises a light intensity of said light-emitting elements.

9. (New) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein said characteristic value comprises at least one of light intensity, forward voltage, wavelength and chromaticity.

10. (New) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein said LEDs are arranged beginning with an LED having a smallest characteristic value of said LEDs to an LED having a largest characteristic value of said LEDs.

11. (New) A method of arranging light-emitting elements according to Claim 5, wherein said light-emitting elements are arranged beginning with a light-emitting element having a smallest characteristic value of said light-emitting elements to a light-emitting element having a largest characteristic value of said light-emitting elements.

12. (New) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
generating an arrangement sequence on a memory of a computer to make said characteristic values of adjacent LEDs substantially equal,  
wherein said rearranging is conducted based on said arrangement sequence.

13. (New) A method of arranging light-emitting elements according to Claim 5, further comprising:  
generating an arrangement sequence on a memory of a computer to make said characteristic values of adjacent light-emitting elements substantially equal,  
wherein said rearranging is conducted based on said arrangement sequence.

14. (New) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein said temporarily storing comprises ranking each of said LEDs with a temporary number by said characteristic value.

15. (New) A method of arranging light-emitting elements according to Claim 5, wherein said temporarily storing comprises ranking said light-emitting elements with a temporary number by said characteristic value.

16. (New) An apparatus for arranging a number of LEDs, comprising:  
a characteristic value measuring unit that performs a characteristic measurement on the LEDs to obtain a characteristic value for the LEDs;  
an arrangement sequence calculation unit that generates an arrangement sequence of the LEDs such that a difference between the characteristic value of adjacent LEDs is minimized; and  
a rearrangement unit for rearranging the LEDs in accordance with said arrangement sequence.

17. (New) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein said rearranging said LEDs comprises sorting said LEDs according to a predetermined algorithm

18. (New) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein said rearranging said LEDs comprises arranging said LEDs on a tape.

19. (New) A method of arranging LEDs according to Claim 1, wherein said rearranging said LEDs comprises arranging said LEDs on a palette.